

(Bulletin for Statehouse, Capitol Mall Employees November 5, 2001)

One Stone At A Time ...

## Placing New Mortar In Between the Exterior Stonework



*Using a compressed liquid sprayer, worker moistens joint.*

**M**artha Stewart would be proud of the masonry experts and their meticulous finishing touches as they labor on the exterior stonework of the Idaho Capitol Building. Over the past several weeks, the intricate masonry work of removing and replacing old and crumbling mortar from in between the stone joints on the Statehouse East Side has progressed very methodically.

Last week's **renewal news** explained the first steps in the masonry repair process where workers cut and chiseled away old mortar. This week's photos show the steps taken in the placement of new mortar, a procedure carefully undertaken in incremental layers. The first layer of mortar is squirted into the joint, using a squeeze bag; much like Martha would use for cake decorating, and is allowed to dry for 45 minutes, then repeated at least three times. The joints are not filled to their entire depth, because it makes the mortar less sturdy say the experts. **Next week's issue** will illustrate how the joints are sealed, smoothed and finished. Also, watch for the **Flying Dutchman!**



*Photos from left: Filling the mortar bag; squirting mortar into joint; raking excess mortar out before joint is allowed to dry.*



**Other work activity taking place this week:** The pouring of new concrete into the upper step forms has been completed down to the first landing on the East Steps, and is in the curing and drying process. This week, workers are expected to pour cement into the forms for the lower level of steps. In addition, the masonry experts will also be using pressurized techniques to spot-clean stonework at various locations on the Capitol Building's East Face.

**Please note:** The intent of **Renewal News** is to provide readers the most current and complete information as possible regarding construction activities during the Capitol Restoration project. However, construction schedules are always subject to change, based upon weather conditions, transport and acquisition of support equipment and personnel, or other unforeseen circumstances. Inquiries, comments on the Restoration effort can be sent to **Diane Blume** at: [dblume@adm.state.id.us](mailto:dblume@adm.state.id.us) **Renewal News** online at: <http://www.idahocapitolcommission.org/whatsnew.html>  
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